

From: MD Dbeis
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

M.D.
CS&S Computer Systems, Inc
1505 W. University Dr. Suite 103
Tempe, AZ 85281
www.css-computers.com
480-968-8585
480-968-9544 FAX

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Attorney General John Ashcroft
DOJ, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

The way that this lawsuit against Microsoft has quickly degenerated into a vengeful exchange of threats of breaking the company up should give pause to any of us in the IT business. It should be acknowledged that Microsoft has not carried itself in the noblest fashion at times, but this alone should not be cause enough to drag the company through the federal courts. Furthermore, if this sort of action can be so easily brought against a company like Microsoft, then other IT companies may soon find themselves in a similar position.

For the sake of clarity, this settlement should be endorsed by all. At it stands, the terms of the settlement go beyond the scope of the original lawsuit. They address the notorious issue of Microsoft's relationship with OEMs, and now Microsoft will have to change the way it sets up contracts with other companies that distribute Windows as well. Of course, its greatest advantage is it will bring to an end this cycle of negative posturing between those on the government's side and those on Microsoft's. My business was noticeably pinched by the lawsuit, and I – and many others – cannot afford to have the entire IT business in a wait-and-see attitude to see if Microsoft will be split up.

I support this settlement, and convey my hope that this kind of litigation against an American company will not happen again any time soon.

Sincerely,

Mountasir Dbeis
CEO

cc: Representative Jeff Flake

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